

## ***50 Example Questions For Protestants***

Greetings, I hope this finds you and your family doing well. The origin of the questions herein is the Cessationist vs Continuationist divide which has existed for centuries. If you're not familiar with these terms, Cessationists believe the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the 9 Holy Spirit gifts - prophecy, tongues etc. as per 1 Corinthians 12 - ended over 1,900 years ago with the early church. Some Cessationists believe some healing miracles occur today, but are rare. Continuationists are typically in the Pentecostal and Charismatic camps and believe the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the 9 Holy Spirit gifts are still valid today. I typically refer to Continuationists as Charismatics.

Today, hundreds of millions of Christians are in the two camps. Given there is only one truth - the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the 9 gifts ended with the early church or they did not. Only one camp is right which means hundreds of millions of believers must be right, and hundreds of millions must be wrong. Whatever the truth, the costs for the group that is wrong are major- and perhaps even moreso for the leaders who have been teaching wrongly on this core issue of the Christian faith. Two questions for you to ponder to start.

- 1) If this Baptism and the 9 gifts did end with the early church:
  - a. what are the benefits today for the hundreds of millions of Cessationists whose belief is right; and
  - b. what are the potential costs or negative consequences today for the hundreds of millions of Charismatics who are involved in these gifts and whose belief on this issue is wrong?
  
- 2) If this Baptism and the 9 gifts did not end with the early church, but are valid today:
  - a. what are the costs or negative consequences today for the hundreds of millions of Cessationists whose belief is wrong; and
  - b. what are the benefits today for the hundreds of millions of Charismatics whose belief is correct and are actively engaged in these gifts?

This disagreement has led to many ungodly words, much disunity and much division within the Body of Christ. God hates unwarranted disunity; satan loves it. The questions and issues raised in this document are not provided to see how much readers know or do not know. They are not a test, but are provided in the hope they will encourage readers to search out the truth on these issues. And in doing so, it is my hope that readers will better understand the what and why of their own beliefs as well as the what and why of beliefs held by those in the other camp. With improved understanding and awareness, I hope the questions will - at a minimum - reduce some of the hostility and division within the Body of Christ. In addition, I hope they will guide and facilitate individual and group study and dialogue, will identify opportunities for additional equipping of the saints, and will ultimately help bless both believers and unbelievers living in a very hurting and deceived world.

For those who are interested, I also have another set of questions for Roman Catholics. My views on both sets of questions as well as other questions/issues are found in my comprehensive book **CEASED?** and to varying degrees in my 3 books which are excerpts of **CEASED?** - (1) **POINTS TO PONDER FOR CHARISMATICS & PENTECOSTALS**, (2) **POINTS TO PONDER FOR CESSATIONISTS** and (3) **POINTS TO PONDER FOR ROMAN CATHOLICS**. All 4 books are available on Amazon., and a free PDF copy of **CEASED?** is available, at least at this point in time, on my website [www.Ceased.ca](http://www.Ceased.ca).

May God guide and bless you as you ponder these questions. And so you now, unless otherwise indicated, scriptures are from the NASB translation.

## *Mindsets – A Consideration*

In today's world, there are many faiths and religions. When one studies religions in some depth on core issues such as who God is and how does one get saved, it is clear religions are mutually exclusive. Only one can be true. There are many followers in each faith/religion who are very often adamant their faith/religion is the true one. Without getting into why I believe my faith is the one true faith, consider a more general issue that I have often raised with non-Christians. The largest faiths/religions have somewhere around 15% of the world's population, the exact percentage depending on what data sources and definitions are used. Which means - from purely a mathematical point of view - if the largest faith/religion was the one correct faith/religion, then ~85% of the world's population must have it wrong. If a faith/religion with a following of 5% of the world's population was the correct one, then 95% of the world's population has it wrong.

Given the importance of faith - not only because it has implications for our lives here on earth, but also determines where we spend eternity which is a fairly long time - it begs the question as to why so many people are wrong about their faith. To me, a key reason why more people don't come to know the truth of Jesus, is that we humans are very prone to blindly believing what we are told by family, friends and those in authority *'above'* us. Compounding that issue, is that many/most of us are much more committed to defending and remaining loyal to our current beliefs than we are committed to truly seeking the truth. Which, in my view, is why many of us end up with the same faith as our parents. It is also why disagreements such as the Cessationist vs Continuationist divide have continued for decades, if not centuries.

As you ponder these questions, I'd encourage you to check your hearts to see where your loyalty is - to your current beliefs or to seeking the truths in God's Word.

Blessings,

Don

## ***Quick Survey For You to Give Others***

Before getting into the 50 questions, below are 12 questions that might be used in surveys for readers to see where they and others they fellowship with stand in term of some basic issues of Christianity. And then – if you feel inclined – to share the results with one’s friends, small group, church leaders etc. Two things:

- ❖ After each question, I put the verse or page numbers in **CEASED? 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION** where the answers are found. And for your review, a free PDF copy of CEASED? is on my website.
- ❖ Some of these 12 questions are also part of the 50 questions.

In addition, if you feel inclined, I would appreciate receiving the results of surveys by your sending a note to me through my website [www.Ceased.ca](http://www.Ceased.ca) with the following type of information:

- 1: #of individuals in survey: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: State/Province/Country: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-a: Average # questions answered correctly: \_\_\_\_\_ or 4-b:
- 4-b: Number of correct and incorrect answers for each of the 12 questions.

1. Human beings have a body. What are the names of the other 2 parts we have? [Chapter 3]
2. When Adam and Eve ate of the tree, which part or parts died right away? And later on? [Pages 35-37]
3. What does born again mean, and what happens to each part of a human being when a person is born again? [Chapter 4]
4. When were the original 12 apostles born again? [Page 108]
5. How many different kinds of baptisms are in the Bible, and how many are relevant to believers today? [Chapter 10]
6. What happens when a person is Baptized in the Holy Spirit? [Page 121-129]
7. What is the primary reason for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? [Page 122]
8. Who gives a person their Baptism in the Holy Spirit? [Page 123]
9. When were the original 12 apostles water baptized after the cross? [Acts]
10. When were the original 12 apostles Baptized in the Holy Spirit? [Page 121, 138, 149]
11. When does a person get *‘Filled with the Holy Spirit’*? [Chapter 9]
12. What is the purpose of eternal life? [John 17:3]

**Part A: Christians and Christianity**

- 1) What portion of Protestants (less than 25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, more than 75%) do you think sincerely want to know the truth in significant issues of faith where they are wrong? Coming at this from another perspective, what % of Protestants do you think will objectively consider credible evidence that contradicts their current beliefs?
- 2) What do you think are the main reasons preventing more believers from truly seeking the truths in God's Word, and then live according to them?
- 3) Denominations disagree on a number of significant issues in scripture, sometimes for centuries. What do you think are the major reasons why such disagreements continue to this day? After all, God is the author of confusion.
- 4) What portion of believers do you think have independently studied God's Word on major issues to ensure what they have been taught is clearly supported by the Bible?
- 5) In terms of issues such as i) Cessationism (Baptism of Holy Spirit and the 9 Holy Spirit gifts - prophecy, tongues, healing etc. - ended with early church), ii) the demonic, or iii) other issues that conflict with what your church teaches, do you feel safe in raising questions and discussing them with i) family ii) friends, iii) a small group in your church or iv) leaders at your church?
- 6) Many (I'm one) believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God? Do you? But is inerrancy in all our modern-day language translations, or just the original Greek and Hebrew transcripts?
- 7) When it comes to significant matters of faith, what is your final authority - your opinion, teachings of your church, denomination, pastor(s), teacher(s), God's Word, or other? Further:
  - a. why is it critical that God's Word is our final authority on matters of faith?
  - b. how can we truly tell what is truly our final authority?

**Part B: Born Again/Saved**

- 8) Human beings are 3 parts - spirit, soul (mind, will and emotions) & body. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
  - a. When and how do we humans receive our spirit and soul?
  - b. What happens to our spirit and soul when our body dies on earth?
  - c. When God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because doing so would cause him to die, which part(s) of Adam and Eve died?

*John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
- 9) In John 3, when Jesus tells Nicodemus he needed to be born again, in both water/the flesh and the spirit:
  - a. is it our spirit that needs to be born again, or all 3 parts?
  - b. If it is our spirit, what happens to our soul and body when we are born again?
  - c. what does water/flesh refer to - physical birth or water baptism? If water baptism, do you think water baptism is required to be saved/born again? If yes, why?

- 10) When born again, Holy Spirit comes 'in' [en] us.
- Does having Holy Spirit in us facilitate hearing from & speaking to God directly? If not, what is the benefit of having Holy Spirit come in us?
  - does the term born again refer to i) an event (i.e. something that happens at a point in time similar to how our physical birth has a time of birth, or ii) an ongoing process? In other words, when does Holy Spirit come in us - all at once, or in pieces over time?
- 11) Is Jesus the only way to having eternal life in heaven? And is knowing a great deal about Jesus enough or is it about having a personal relationship with Jesus? And what is eternal life anyway? Consider the following:
- Matthew 7:23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'*
  - Luke 13:24 ... many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able ... 27 ... 'I do not know where you are from; leave Me, all you evildoers.'*
  - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
  - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

**Part C: The Demonic**

- 12) Consider 1 Corinthians 6:17.
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*
    - After being born again, our spirit becomes one with Holy Spirit. Some teach that once we are born again, our spirit is off limits to demonic influences, but our soul and body are still subject to such influences. Do you agree? If not, why not?
    - If you think demons are not able to influence believers today in any one of our 3 parts, why is casting out demons a sign of believers? And why are we commanded to cast out demons?
      - Mark 16:17 These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons ...*
      - Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*
    - If believers are only to cast demons out of non-believers today, are there are potential negative consequences for the person from whom demons are cast?
- 13) To what extent - if any - are issues such as addiction and gender confusion a result of issues in a person's spirit, soul, and body? And does the demonic world play a role in such issues?

**Part D: Two Baptisms**

- 14) How many different kinds of baptisms are referred to in the Bible, and how many baptisms are relevant to believers today?
- 15) When did the original apostles - and the rest of the ~120 who were at Pentecost - receive their water baptism? If you say they received the Baptism of Repentance per John the Baptist and that meant they did not need water baptism, why did Paul have the 12 disciples at Ephesus in Acts 19 water baptized when they had already received the Baptism of repentance?
- 16) What is the name of the baptism that is received when a person is born again? Who gives this baptism?
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ...*

**Part E: Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

- 17) In Acts 1, Jesus tells His disciples to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. What is the primary purpose or reason for this Baptism?
- Acts 1:4 ... He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you **will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**" ... 8 but you will **receive power** when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria ... remotest part of the earth."*
- 18) Jesus spoke the words in Acts 1:4-8 just prior to His ascension which occurred 40 days after resurrection Sunday evening.
- Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.*
  - a. Given Pentecost occurs 50 days after Passover, does that mean Jesus ascended 43 days after Passover and 7 days before Pentecost?
- 19) Were the original apostles/disciples therefore Baptized in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, where the 7 days represent the 'not many days from now' between Pentecost and the date Jesus ascended?
- a. Given these words in Acts 1 were amongst Jesus's very last words that He spoke before He ascended, would these words be especially important? And ones we should pay close attention to today?
- 20) Do these verses in Acts 1:4-8 indicate Baptism of the Holy Spirit has anything to do with being born again?
- a. is this Baptism about receiving power to be witnesses, power that appears in the form of tongues, prophecy or other gifts as seen at Pentecost (Acts 2), with Cornelius et al (Acts 10) and the 12 disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19)?
    - Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come **upon [epi]** you ... 5... not many days from now*
    - Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come .... 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested **on [epi]** each one of them. 4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and **began to speak** with **other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.***
    - Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon [epi] all those** who were listening to the message. 45 All the circumcised believers ... were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing **them speaking with tongues** ....*
    - Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Spirit came upon [epi] them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.***
  - b. Did Peter perhaps also benefit from being Baptized in the Holy Spirit when he spoke boldly (i.e. witnessed verbally) in Acts 2 and ~3,000 came to the Lord?
- 21) Who actually gives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit - a person or Jesus?
- Matthew 3:11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.***

**Part F: With, In and Upon Experiences: Original Apostles/Disciples**

- 22) Consider John 14:17, events which occurred before the cross.
- John 14:17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides **with [para is the underlying Greek word]** you and will be **in [en]** you.*
    - a. In terms of the 'with' experience, some teach it refers to Holy Spirit being with unsaved people as He draws them to Jesus? If this is not a valid teaching, what does the with experience relate to?
    - b. In terms of the 'in' experience, some teach it refers to Holy Spirit being in us when we are born again. If this is not a valid teaching, what does the in experience relate to?
- 23) Were the original group of disciples born again on resurrection Sunday evening when Jesus breathed on them in John 20:22 and said "Receive the Holy Spirit"? If not, why not?
- John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."*
    - a. Do you believe the room was emotionally charged and excited when Jesus come into the locked room? Was it a teaching moment?
    - b. Some believers view Jesus's breath of air as being symbolic. After all the time Jesus spent with the disciples, and all the things that happened over the previous 3½ years including the previous week, how likely is it that Jesus would give them a symbolic breath of air? If so, why didn't Jesus speak in a future tense and state something like "You will receive the Holy Spirit, not many days from now?"
    - c. When Jesus spoke these words in the present tense, doesn't that show Jesus wanted them to receive Holy Spirit right then and there?
    - d. If you believe Jesus's breathing on the disciples was symbolic, do we need to also treat His words on sending and forgiving symbolically? If not, why not? And if yes, how do we do that?
- 24) If you still believe the original disciples were not born again on resurrection Sunday evening, but at Pentecost which is a reasonably common belief in some circles:
- a. What Bible verses explicitly state they were born again and had Holy Spirit come in them at Pentecost as opposed to resurrection Sunday evening?
  - b. When the argument is made that Pentecost "is when they received the Holy Spirit", doesn't the logic actually provide strong support for the view the original disciples were born again on resurrection Sunday evening when Jesus was very specific and said 'receive the Holy Spirit'?
- 25) Furthermore, If you believe the original disciples were born again at Pentecost, was Jesus's first priority before He ascended in Acts 1:9 for these disciples most likely to be:
- a. i) born again or ii) to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit to receive power to be witnesses?
  - b. **If you also believe** Jesus's first priority was for them to be born again, why is Jesus silent on this issue in Acts 1, but does tell them to wait to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit ... not many days from now? Could His silence on being born again because they were already born again?
- 26) There are many key events for these believers including these 3: born again, water baptism and Baptism in the Holy Spirit? Based on the above, my view is that Holy Spirit was '**with [para]** the original apostles/disciples before the cross, came '**in [en]** them on resurrection Sunday evening and then came '**upon [epi]** them at Pentecost? If you disagree, when do you believe these 3 experiences with Holy Spirit took place for this original group of apostles/disciples?

- 27) If the original apostles were born again and had Holy Spirit come in them on resurrection Sunday evening and then had Holy Spirit come upon them (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) at Pentecost, does this indicate the in and the upon are two separate experiences? And that receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not required to be born again?
- 28) Were the 12 disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19) born again and had Holy Spirit come in them before meeting Paul?
  - a. If not, why does God's Word call them believers when Paul first met them?
  - b. In other words, in order to be a believer or Christian, doesn't a person need to be born again?
- 29) Luke 24 tells us there were 3 groups in that locked room when Jesus breathed on the disciples - the eleven, the 2 disciples Jesus met on the road to Emmaus, and a group described as *'those who were with them'*.
  - a. Who was all in this latter group? The group of 70 Jesus sent out in Luke 10? The women who went to Jesus's empty tomb earlier on resurrection Sunday morning? Most/all of the ~120 who were gathered together in prayer after Jesus ascended per Acts 1:15?
  - b. What do Jesus statements on sending, receiving Holy Spirit and then forgiving mean in terms of giving special treatment, special status to the apostles that He didn't give to His other disciples?

**Part G: Cornelius, Family and Friends**

- Acts 10:44 **While Peter was still speaking** these words, the **Holy Spirit fell upon [epi] all those who were listening to the message. 45 ... believers who came with Peter were amazed, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.** 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" 48 And **he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.** ...***
- 30) When Peter was sharing the Good News to Cornelius, family and friends, amazing things happened. In your view, are the events of Acts 10:44-48 consistent with the following summary:
    - i. As seen at Pentecost and then later with the 12 disciples of Ephesus, the gift of tongues occurs as a result of believers receiving their Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
    - ii. When Peter saw these Gentiles speaking in tongues, he took that as evidence that Cornelius, family, and friends must have been Baptized in the Holy Spirit where Holy Spirit had come upon them (verses 44-46).
    - iii. In order for these Gentiles to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit, Peter realized these Gentiles must also have been born again.
    - iv. Given they must have been born again, Peter realized they had already received the Holy Spirit - the Holy Spirit 'in' experience - in the same way Peter and the other disciples had received Holy Spirit on resurrection Sunday evening when they were born again.
    - v. When Peter realized that Cornelius, family, and friends must have been born again - and thus had Holy Spirit in [en] them - Peter recognized the gift of salvation which had been given to the Jewish people had also now been given to the Gentiles.
    - vi. And finally: given these Gentiles had received the gift of salvation, Peter knew he needed to treat the Gentiles in the same way as he did Jewish believers. As a result, Peter took steps to have them baptized in water.

If you don't believe the above summary reflects Peter's train of thought, what was Peter's thought process?



**Part H: Filled with / Full of the Holy Spirit**

- 31) Is a believer '*Filled with the Holy Spirit*' / '*Full of the Holy Spirit*' as a result of (i) being born again or (ii) being Baptized in the Holy Spirit? Consider:
- Acts 2:4 And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*  
(By the way, I reviewed 16 scenarios that collectively show - in my view - being filled with the Holy Spirit occurs as a result of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit)
- 32) **IF** the group of ~120 were filled with the Holy Spirit as a result of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), and **IF** they were born again on resurrection Sunday evening does that mean:
- a. they were not filled with the Holy Spirit as a result of being born again;
  - b. there is something unique about being '*Filled with the Holy Spirit*' that a person does not gain when we are born again and have Holy Spirit come in us;
  - c. being filled has something to do with the power referred to in Acts 1:4-8?
  - d. If not, what does Acts 2:4 show us?
- 33) Were any Biblical characters '*Filled with the Holy Spirit*' more than once? (ponder Acts 4:31, 6:3) And if so, what does this mean for believers?
- 34) In Acts 6, seven new leaders were to be selected to look after a ministry for the widows. A requirement for leaders was they were to be '*Filled with the Spirit*':
- Acts 6:3 Instead, brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, **full of the Spirit** and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.*
    - a. Do you think an even more basic requirement that is not even mentioned is that they needed to be born again followers of Jesus? If not, why not?
    - b. If being filled with the Spirit is a requirement for these 7 new leaders, does that mean some of the possible candidates were not filled with the Spirit? If you say no, then why make this a requirement?

One of those leaders chosen was Stephen who was also engaged in signs and wonders.

- Acts 6:5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**, and Philip, Prochorus ...*
- Acts 6:8 And Stephen, **full of grace and power**, was **performing great wonders and signs**...*
  - c. If these leaders needed this Baptism for a service ministry to widows, and Stephen was full of the Spirit and involved in many signs and wonders, does that indicate leaders in today's service ministry would also benefit from this Baptism and the gifts if they were still available? If not, why not?

**Part I: God and Speaking to Believers**

- 35) Further to earlier comments:
- a. Do you think God wants a personal relationship with believers today, relationships involving 2-way conversations wherein we speak to and hear from God in different ways including dreams, visions, His still small voice, or even more direct 'conversations' as God did with Adam, Cain, Noah, Job, Abraham, Moses ... and the people of Israel as per Deuteronomy 4:15-19 & 4:23-24?
  - b. Did God only speak to prophets in the Bible? If you say yes, does that mean you consider all of the 6 men mentioned above to be prophets? If they were not all prophets, what does that mean in terms of Jewish in Biblical times ... and Christians today?
- 36) If God doesn't speak to believers one-on-one today, and everything we need is in the Bible, doesn't that mean that God has not spoken/communicated with any person for over 1,900 years? If not, why not?

- 37) Consider the following scriptures:
- Matthew 10:8 **Heal the sick, raise the dead**, cleanse those with leprosy, **cast out demons**. Freely you received, freely give.*
  - Mark 16:15 ... "Go into all the world and **preach the gospel** to all creation ... 17 **These signs** will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will **cast out demons**, they will **speak with new tongues**; 18 ... will **lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**"*
- a. are today's believers called to share the gospel, cast out demons, speak in tongues, and heal the sick? If you say 'no', why not? If you answered 'yes', how equipped are you to:
- i. share the gospel (evangelize) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 = Nil; 10 = well equipped)
  - ii. cast out demons \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. heal the sick \_\_\_\_\_
  - iv. speak in tongues \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. operate in other 8 Holy Spirit gifts \_\_\_\_\_ (prophecy, healings per 1 Cor. 8-10)
- b. are the phrases such as heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons in Matthew 10:8 a command that all of today's believers are called to do? If not, why not?

**Part J: The Issue of Cessationism:**

- 38) If you believe the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the 9 Holy Spirit gifts ended with the early church, what are the 3 main reasons underlying your belief?
- 39) One cessationist argument is that all divine revelation is in the Bible, the Bible is sufficient for all our needs and we don't need to hear from God today outside His Word. In terms of prophecy:
- a. Are prophecies given by God to be considered divine revelation?
  - b. Did every individual who was labelled as a prophet in God's Word receive at least one prophetic message/word from God?
  - c. How should we view the fact there are more than 588 individuals labelled as a prophet or prophetess but who do not have a single prophecy recorded in the Bible? In other words, doesn't this show not everything God said in Biblical times warranted being in the Bible? And that this could still hold true today?
  - d. For prophets and prophetesses who have one or more prophecies described in the Bible, could they have had additional prophecies not recorded in the Bible?
    - i. If you say no, is your belief based on a scripture, or an assumption?
    - ii. Similarly, were all prophets in Biblical times identified in the Bible? If you say yes, is that based on scripture, or an assumption?
    - iii. Given some individuals in the Bible prophesied but who were not called prophets, does that mean individuals who are not prophets could nonetheless receive prophecies from God today? if not, is that based on scripture or an assumption?
- 40) There have been and continue to be ungodly behaviors of individuals in the 'Charismatic/Pentecostal camp' who call themselves prophets, healers etc.
- a. Are the ungodly behaviors of these 'Charismatics/Pentecostals' valid reason:
    - i. for not wanting to get involved or even consider getting involved in the Holy Spirit gifts such as healing, tongues and prophecy?
    - ii. to believe all Charismatics & Pentecostals believe and participate in such things?
  - b. If so, do the ungodly behaviors of leaders in Cessationist churches mean the beliefs of these Cessationist churches are not valid either?
  - c. If some Charismatics/Pentecostals are not doing things right as detailed in the Bible, is that reason not to get involved, or does that simply mean we should take steps to avoid doing what is wrong, and to do what is right?

- d. How do we view individuals who were involved in seemingly ungodly things including building of an ark, hearing God via a burning bush, parting of the Red Sea and Jordan River, ravens bringing bread and meat, finding a coin in a fish's mouth, spending 3 days in a large fish, and fishing out a floating axe head? If someone was involved in such activities today, how quick would we be to not only reject them and their words, but to even mock them?
- 41) A key Cessationist argument is the 9 Holy Spirit gifts are active from Acts 2 to 21, then decline as Acts comes to a close from Acts 22 to 28. This decline confirms the gifts would soon end.
- a. Is frequency of mention a reliable indicator of the actual frequency of occurrence?
  - b. When one counts the actual number of times any of the 9 gifts were used in each chapter, we find the 9 gifts were used in specific situations 29 times in Chapters 2-28.
    - i. Of the 9 Holy Spirit gifts, only 4 of the gifts are mentioned. Does that mean the other 5 gifts were never used? Or used, but simply not mentioned in God's Word?
  - b. If we simplify and assume that all 29 gifts were done by the original 12 apostles, 29 gifts equates to:
    - i. an average of 2.4 gifts per apostle (29/12), over 20+ years,
    - ii. ~1.2 gifts per year for all apostles combined (29/25) over ~25 years, and
    - iii. less than .1 gift per apostle per year (29/12/25).
  - c. Given that:
    - i. do these numbers come close to reflecting the reality of the number of gifts that were occurring?
    - ii. And are the 29 times an adequate data set on which to assess the actual occurrence of the gifts?
    - iii. If you say no and thus want to throw this analysis out, is it still better than simply making a general claim that that the gifts were either increasing or decreasing?
    - iv. In terms of these counts, consider the summary below. Acts 2-21 covers 20 chapters and over 20 years; 24 gifts divided by 20 chapters (& years) = an average of 1.2 gifts per chapter or year. In Acts 27-28, we see 2.5 gifts per chapter and 1.7 per year. (Note: I believe Acts 22-26, which is focused on Paul's legal issues and not the goings on of all the disciples in those 2½ years should not be counted.)
    - v. Based on my counts and analysis, I struggle to see how the gifts were on the decline as Acts comes to a close. If I am correct, what does that mean for the Cessationist argument? If you disagree with my analysis and conclusions, you are welcome to do so. But where is my analysis wrong, and why do you disagree?

**Figure 4:4 Summary of Frequency of Occurrence**

Description of Analysis	Acts 2-21	Acts 22-26	Acts 27-28	Acts 22-28
I: Average occurrences <b>per chapter</b> if count all chapters	24 gifts / 20 chapters = average of 1.2 gifts per chapter	0/5 = 0	5/2 = 2.5	5/7 = .7
II: Average occurrences <b>per chapter</b> if only count chapters where gifts are mentioned	24 gifts / 13 chapters = average of 1.8 gifts per chapter	0/0 = 0	5/2 = 2.5	5/2 = 2.5
III: Average # of occurrences <b>per year</b> based on years covered in chapters	A: 24 gifts / 20 years = 1.2 gifts per year	B: 0/0.5=0	C: 5/3 =1.7 D: ** 5/1=5.0	E: 5/3.5=1.4 F: ** 5/1=5.0

\*\* D: and E: are based on only 2 years. The 2 years in Acts 28:30 are excluded.

☐ Acts 28:30 Now Paul stayed two full years in his own rented lodging ...

- 42) A related Cessationist argument to the above is that there is no specific mention or specific situations of the gifts being used in the 21 books following Acts. This purported decline and the lack of mention are viewed as evidence that the gifts ended with the early church.
- At least 4 books - James, Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians - were written prior to the events of Acts 21 at a time when leading Cessationists agree the 9 Holy Spirit gifts were in fully operation, but yet they make no mention of the gifts. Doesn't that void the argument: "*lack of mention of the gifts in the 21 books after Acts means the gifts were not occurring, and were well on their way to cessation?*" If not, how does this Cessationist argument still valid?
- 43) Paul wrote 1 Corinthians after the events of Acts 19-21. If the gifts were limited to the original group of apostles/earliest believers, why would Paul:
- Not tell those prophesying in Chapter 11 to stop prophesying instead of correcting them when they were praying and prophesying?
  - List the 9 Holy Spirit gifts in Chapter 12, especially if 5 of them weren't even used?
  - Encourage believers to pursue the spiritual gifts in Chapter 14, especially prophecy, if the gifts such as prophecy were not available to them?
- 44) If the 9 Holy Spirit gifts ended with the original apostles, why were the following individuals involved in such gifts?
- Acts 6:8 Stephen, **full of grace and power**, was **performing great wonders and signs ...**
  - Acts 21:9 Now this man had **four virgin daughters who were prophetesses**.
  - Acts 19:1 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found **some disciples** ... 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.**

Now consider:

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed in the church, first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healings**, helps, administrations, various **kinds of tongues**.
  - Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**,
  - Romans 12:6 Since we have **gifts** that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; 8 or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy** ...
- 45) If you believe the Holy Spirit gifts, apostles and prophets are not valid today (or believe they are active but you are not involved yourself):
- Why would positions such as pastors and teaching, and gifts such as exhorting, giving and leading per Romans 12 still be valid today?
  - 1 Corinthians, Ephesians and Romans were all written after the events of Acts 21 when the Holy Spirit gifts had supposedly started to decline. Why would verses such as 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11 and Romans 12 include combinations of gifts and functions some of which ended prior to the writing of these books and others that would continue on to today? Doesn't doing so create confusion, something God doesn't do?

**Part K: Your Thoughts on These Issues?**

Here are a few issues where views differ. What are your thoughts, and why?

- 46) When we think of the 9 Holy Spirit gifts and Holy Spirit being both in and upon a believer (such as the apostles, Stephen, the 12 disciples at Ephesus, Cornelius et al.), did they have 1 or more of the Holy Spirit gifts, or were they simply a delivery vehicle for whatever gift Holy Spirit wanted to deliver at any point in time? In other words, can believers potentially be used by God in all 9 of these gifts?
- 47) Does Acts 2:38 refer to water baptism or to Baptism in the Holy Spirit?
- Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized ...
    - a. If you say water baptism,
      - i. is water baptism required to be saved?
      - ii. what other scriptures have Peter stating water baptism is needed for salvation?
    - b. After all that happened prior to this (consider reading Acts 2:1-37), do you think Peter spoke 2:38 in a monotone, low key manner or an excitable, emotionally charged tone?
    - c. If the latter, would excitable emotionally charged Peter be more likely thinking of his water baptism (which I could not find was actually mentioned in the Bible) or because of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which Jesus told Peter and others to wait for, and which Peter and the other ~120 had received minutes before and which involved amazing examples of God's power?
    - d. Is it significant that the Greek preposition 'epi' - the same Greek Word used in conjunction with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit where Holy Spirit comes 'upon' [epi] a person - is the Greek word used in conjunction with the "Repent and be baptized" words of Peter?
- 48) Some Charismatics and Pentecostals teach a person does not have Holy Spirit unless they are Baptized in the Holy Spirit. If so, doesn't this teaching mean every person who has not been Baptized in the Holy Spirit is not a born-again Christian? And to be blunt, doesn't this mean that none of the hundreds of millions of Cessationists are Christians unless they have been Baptized in the Holy Spirit and kept it quiet?
- Romans 8:9 ... you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed **the Spirit of God dwells in [en] you.** But **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.**
- 49) Many Charismatics and Pentecostals believe it is God's will that believers live in 'divine health'. A couple key scriptures supporting this viewpoint are as follows:
- 1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; **for by His wounds you were healed.**
  - Psalm 103:3 Who **pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;**
    - a. Associated with this view is the belief God does not put physical afflictions on people today; all of God's afflictions occurred before the cross. If so, how do deal with the following, all of whom were afflicted after the cross? Herod, Saul/Paul and Elymas were not believers. Ananias and Sapphira were believers.
  - Acts 12:21 ... Herod... began delivering an address to them. 22 The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And immediately **an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.**
  - Acts 9:8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; ... 9 **And he was three days without sight ...**

- Acts 13:8 But **Elymas** the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them ... 11 Now, behold, the **hand of the Lord is upon you**, and **you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.** And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.
  - Acts 5:1 ... **Ananias**, with his wife **Sapphira**, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for himself ... 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and **breathed his last** ... 10 And immediately she fell at his feet and **breathed her last** ...
    - b. If you don't believe God puts afflictions on people today, how does your belief relate to what faces the unsaved on judgment day?
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is **Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.**
- 50) If Christians were indeed to live in divine health today, what does that look like? Would it be the kind of health Adam and Eve enjoyed before the fall? Or should it be closer to the 900+ years Adam and others lived after the fall, but before the flood? Or Abraham who lived to ~175? 120 years as per Moses and Genesis 6:3? 70-80 years per Psalm 90?

**Part L: 3 Considerations in Closing**

1. The blessings that God gives us when we are born again are amazing. A summary of some of the key blessings are found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document. Ponder and enjoy!
2. When you consider the contents herein, are the above questions fair and reasonable questions that lay Christians should be able to sit with their small groups, pastors and leaders and discuss peacefully and candidly?
  - a. If such discussions aren't possible, isn't that a major red flag?
  - b. In a similar way, how many believers that are part of Cessationist churches actually do believe the 9 Holy Spirit gifts are still valid today - and may even operate in one or more of the gifts including tongues - but have to hide their beliefs and activities?
3. Are the following scriptures to be central in your life, and the lives of those you influence and fellowship with, and if so, what are your thoughts on how to include them in your life?
  - 1 John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and **indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**
  - 1 Corinthians 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.
  - Acts 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ... 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses ...
  - Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
  - 1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy ... 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets ...
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But

*examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;*

- ❑ *Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with leprosy, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*
  
- ❑ *Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation ... 17 These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*
  
- ❑ *1 Corinthians 2:5 so your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.*

May God bless you and your families radically in the years ahead, and may you come to both i) know the love of the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit, and ii) experience the power of God like never before.

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## Appendix 1 The Great Exchange / Divine Exchange

Appendix 1 summarizes some of the blessings God gives a person when we are born again and become a child of God. The exchange represents what Jesus did for us, and in exchange, what we received. Pretty darn amazing.

What happened to Jesus?	What happened for us?
1. Enslaved in human flesh; earthly living challenges ❖ Luke 9:58; 4:1-12 ❖ Philippians 2:5-8	Blessings in heavenly places ❖ Ephesians 1:3; 2:6
2. Tempted by devil ❖ Matthew 4:1-11 ❖ Mark 1:9-13 ❖ Luke 4:1-12	Works of devil destroyed for us ❖ Colossians 2:15 ❖ 1 John 3:8 Ability to resist/be free from sinning ❖ Matthew 6:13 ❖ Romans 6:6 ❖ Galatians 2:20
3. Sold for the price of a slave ❖ Matthew 26:15; 27:3	Bought with the blood of Jesus ❖ Acts 20:28 ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:20 ❖ 1 Peter 1:18-19
4. Surrendered ❖ John 10:17	Given spiritual authority ❖ Matthew 28:18-20 ❖ Mark 16:15-19 ❖ Luke 10:19 ❖ John 20:21 ❖ Acts 3:6
5. Captured due to sins of world ❖ Acts 2:23	Delivered from the sins of the world ❖ Galatians 1:4
6. Despised, shamed, tormented, mocked ❖ Isaiah 53:3 ❖ Matthew 27:35-44 ❖ Mark 14:65 ❖ Luke 18:32 ❖ Romans 8:18 ❖ Hebrews 12:2	God's glory, love, peace ❖ Matthew 27:39-44 ❖ John 3:16; 17:22 ❖ Romans 15:7 ❖ Ephesians 1:6 ❖ Philippians 4:7
7. Rejected by many Jews; abandoned by disciples ❖ Matthew 21:42 ❖ Mark 8:31; 14:50 ❖ Luke 2:34	Acceptance/fellowship with God ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:9 ❖ 1 John 1:3-4
8. Fulfilled the law/made a curse for us ❖ Deuteronomy 21:23 ❖ Matthew 5:17 ❖ Romans 8:1-4 ❖ Galatians 3:13	Freed from the curse of the law; saved by grace ❖ Romans 7:6 ❖ Galatians 3:1-3; 3:13 ❖ Ephesians 2:8-9



What happened to Jesus?	What happened for us?
9. Did not sin; took on our sins ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:21 ❖ 1 Peter 2:22; 2:24	Freed from the penalty of our sins; forgiven, made righteous ❖ Acts 5:31 ❖ Romans 3:22-24; 5:17; 5:8-9; 6:23 ❖ Philippians 1:11 ❖ Colossians 2:14-15 ❖ 2 Peter 1:4
10. Took our sorrows and griefs ❖ Isaiah 53:4	Gladness and joy ❖ Luke 15:10; 15:11 ❖ Acts 14:17 ❖ Hebrews 1:9
11. Body was mangled ❖ Luke 22:19	By His stripe(s), we are healed ❖ Psalm 103:3 ❖ Isaiah 53:5 ❖ 1 Peter 2:24
12. Forsaken/separated from God ❖ Matthew 27:46 ❖ Mark 14:50	Adopted as a child of God ❖ John 1:12-13 ❖ 1 John 3:1 Christ in us ❖ Galatians 2:20 ❖ Ephesians 3:17-21 Holy Spirit in us; leads/guides us ❖ John 14:17 ❖ Romans 8:14-17
13. Died a thankless, cruel death ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:3 ❖ Hebrews 2:9	Eternal life/gift of salvation ❖ Romans 6:23 ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:21-26 ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:15 ❖ 1 John 5:11
14. Died to tear the veil ❖ Matthew 27:51 ❖ Mark 15:38 ❖ Luke 23:45	Direct access to God any time ❖ Exodus 30:10 ❖ Leviticus 16:1-34 ❖ Isaiah 59:1-2 ❖ Acts 17:24-28 ❖ Hebrews 4:14-16 ❖ Hebrews 9:1-9; 10:19-20
15. Died in total poverty; nothing of earthly value left ❖ 2 Corinthians 8:9	Abundant life ❖ John 10:10; 14:13 ❖ Romans 8:32 ❖ 2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:8 ❖ Galatians 3:9 ❖ Philippians 4:19 Heir of God/Joint heirs with Jesus ❖ Matthew 25:34 ❖ Romans 8:17 ❖ Galatians 3:29; 4:7 ❖ Colossians 1:12; 3:24 Citizen of heaven ❖ Philippians 3:20